



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY, TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Energy Policy Division

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June 28, 2004

Mr. Peter Steinbrueck
Chair, Urban Development and Planning Committee
Seattle City Council

Re: Support Seattle Energy Code Improvements

Dear Chair Steinbrueck,

I am writing to convey our support for the package of energy code amendments that are before your committee for approval on June 29, 2004. Energy codes have been a priority of state government since the legislature adopted them in the mid 1980's. The most economical and simplest approach to capture energy efficiency improvements in buildings is at the time of design and construction. Energy efficiency codes are essential to realizing such efficiency improvements at the lowest total cost. Buildings endure for decades and the savings captured by codes accumulate every year.

These savings extend the life of the region's low-cost hydropower system, transmission lines, and distribution system - the distribution system being particularly challenging to upgrade in a growing urban area such as Seattle. They also support Seattle's goal of meeting all new electricity needs with no additional greenhouse gas emissions.

The Seattle Department of Planning and Development has conducted an inclusive, thorough process to review and refine these amendments. Seattle has a long and exemplary history of leading the state in adopting cost-effective energy code improvements for non-residential structures. Seattle's code review process frequently provides the technical specifications and implementation experience that the state needs to later adopt similar standards into state-wide energy codes.

We extend our appreciation to your employees at the Department of Planning and Development for their important contributions to code development in Seattle and in the state. We encourage you to continue to support cost-effective improvements to Seattle's energy code and on-going efforts to maintain effective energy code enforcement.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tony Usibelli
Director, Energy Policy Division
Washington State Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development

cc Mayor Greg Nickels
Councilmember Tom Rasmussen
Councilmember Richard Conlin
Councilmember Jean Godden
John Hogan
Diane Sugimura
Steve Nicholas
Jorge Carrasco
Marya Castellano
Tom Vanbrunkhurst
Kim Drury
John Franklin
David Danner, OFM Executive Policy Office